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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the communiqué on the signing of the Agreement on the regulation of relations and the promotion of cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia, at Belgrade, on 8 April 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Communiqué on the signing of the Agreement on the regulation of relations and the promotion of cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia, Belgrade, 8 April 1996

The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Milan Milutinovic, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Ljubomir Frckoski, signed the Agreement on the regulation of relations and the promotion of cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia in Belgrade today.

By this act, the two sides expressed the deepest interests of their peoples to live in peace, mutual understanding and good-neighbourliness. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia render in this way an important contribution to the strengthening of the peace process, as well as to the building of confidence, stability and good-neighbourliness in the Balkans and Europe. By the signing of this Agreement, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia establish full diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level and create conditions for the comprehensive development of mutual relations and cooperation.

The two countries agreed to build their relations on the principles of equality, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Republic of Macedonia accepted the state continuity and international legal personality of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. An agreement was also reached that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia solve the question of the succession of the former Yugoslavia by agreement.

Particular emphasis was placed on the interest of the two countries in strengthening and intensifying economic cooperation in all fields. It was agreed to begin immediate negotiations on concluding an agreement on economic cooperation and trade, aimed at developing comprehensive and mutually beneficial economic and trade relations. The two sides will also solve by agreement, on the basis of reciprocity, the question of physical persons and legal entities.

Agreement was reached on the promotion of road, rail and air traffic, of PTT and other communications, as well as on mutual restraint from imposing any impediments to the movement of people and goods between the two countries. Cooperation has been envisaged in the field of health, preservation and protection of the environment and, in particular, in the elimination of all forms of transboundary pollution and the coordination of strategies and programmes for regional and international cooperation in the field of the protection of the environment.

The Agreement provides for the protection of the Serbs in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as of the Macedonians in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, preservation and maintenance of monuments of the culture and historical heritage of the two peoples, which will be a subject of separate agreements.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint, diplomatic-expert commission that will prepare a draft international agreement with a textual description of the extension of the common state border.

It was mutually assessed that, following the signing of this important document, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia will enter a period of dynamic development of relations and cooperation, on the basis of traditional friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutual interests.